(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Zambia has ordered crackdown on Indian businessmen and taken over their properties without paying any compensation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other African countries have also taken over the properties held by Indians without paying compensation;

(d) what steps the Government of India have taken to protect the rights of Indians in African countries; and

(e) whether any protest has been lodged with Zambia or any other African Government against the injustice being done to Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the period from February to April 1988 the Zambian Government invoked special powers to cancel about 202 trading licences affecting 171 businessmen, the break-up of which is as follows :

(1) One Indian national.

(2) 70 persons of Indian origin holding Zambian or British passports.

(3) 93 indigenous Zambians; and

(4) Seven are of other foreign origin.

The one Indian national had his trading licence subsequently restored as legal evidence of his involvement in unfair practices was found to be insufficient. Some businessmen of Indian origin had their licences also restored.

(c) to (e) Government have taken up cases of Indian nationals deprived of their assets or of their right to pursue their professions.

Scope of Microbial Technology

*454. DR.G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast scope of enzymes of microbial and plant sources which offer wide scope for improvement of existing fermentation industries and processes and if so, the details of new technologies / precesses undertaken/proposed to be undertaken

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a paper, entitled "Need for New Technologies for Development" presented at the International Symposium on Science Technology and Development at Vigyan Bhavan on the 20th and 25th March, 1987 which makes out a strong case for new technologies to improve on-going fermentation industrial processes and introduction of new products through enzymes; and

(c) whether a review of processes and products in use in the country has been made on the lines of similar technology assessments made in the USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The industries and processes wherein new technologies using enzymes have been developed include areas of antibiotics, brewery, and food processing.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Review has been made in respect of selected fermentation products. These include alcohol, organic acids, antibiotics and bio-fertilizers.

Associ... in Redressal of Public ...

*455. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been drawn up under which voluntary agencies will be associated with redressal of public grievences requiring immediate attention in the interest of improving the quality of administration ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) A proposal to involve voluntary agencies to supplement governmental efforts for a administrative reforms and redress of public grievances was mooted in December, 1985. Ministries were requested to indentify voluntary agencies with whom they would like to interact so that a forum could be provided where the Ministries and the voluntary agencies could come together and suggest measures for reforms. According to the information available, some Ministries/Departments like , Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Welfare, Department of Youth-Affairs & Sports etc. have institutionalised arrangements for interaction with voluntary agencies.

Formation of Electronic Policy

*456. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated an electoronic policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) The papers on Electronics Policy are under consideration by the Government.

Training of IFS Probationers

*457. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that earlier the National Institute of Rural Development used to conduct training or orientation programmes for the probationers of Indian Foreign Service;

(b) if so, when was that, and for how long it was conducted;

(c) what are the reasons for its discontinuation ; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revive it ?